8 RHODAMINE 6G	Page 1 of 2
Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
LATENT FINGERPRINTS PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 29-January-2004

## 8 RHODAMINE 6G

#### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

Rhodamine 6G is a supplemental processing procedure designed to enhance faint or indistinct impressions developed by another technique. Rhodamine 6G is used after cyanoacrylate ester fuming. Rhodamine 6G has an affinity for adhesion to polymerized latent impressions even at levels below visual observation. Excitation of Rhodamine 6G with the 488 nm, 510 nm or 514.5 nm lines of the ALS produces extremely bright fluorescence at about 550 nm.

Rhodamine 6G is classified as "an animal positive experimental carcinogen". (Masters, 3) This chemical is toxic and should be handled using appropriate laboratory safety equipment. Since this chemical is soluble in water absorption can occur through ingestion or inhalation. Inhalation levels have not been established but are to be avoided in any amounts.

## 8.2 PREPARATIONS

The examiner can choose from two preparations of Rhodamine 6G solutions. The preparation chosen is primarily dependent on the reaction of the substrate to the solvent used. A 0.01% to 0.001% Rhodamine 6G in methanol or isopropanol, weight to volume, is productive for most surfaces with methanol being the preferred solvent. Working solutions of Rhodamine 6G should be prepared in small amounts. Weaker solutions are recommended from the viewpoint of health risk and degree of background fluorescence. Aerosol spraying or fuming with Rhodamine 6G has been attempted with no consistent improvement in results, and due to increased health risk, are not recommended. Aqueous Rhodamine 6G solutions should be used when methanol or other organic solvents will be destructive to the surface being treated. If distilled water is not available deionized water may be used.

#### 8.2.1 Methanol Formula

1. Dissolve 0.1 grams of Rhodamine 6G in 1.0 liter of methanol.

# 8.2.2 Aqueous Formula

- 1. Dissolve 0.1 grams of Rhodamine 6G in 1.0 liter of distilled water.
- 2. Add 3-6 drops of Synperonic N and gently stir.
- -The Synperonic N is a surfactant which allows for a sheeting or more even covering of the item with the working solution.

# 8.3 INSTRUMENTATION

Alternate Light Source

Alternate light sources can be used to illuminate the evidence and produce the desired fluorescence. The most common wavelengths of light used are 488nm and 514.5 nm.

Proper safety precautions including avoiding skin exposure and proper eye protection with appropriate optical densities should be utilized when operating ultraviolet light sources, or alternate light sources. Consult the appropriate users manuals for the safe use and appropriate eye protection for the specific piece of equipment being utilized.

8 RHODAMINE 6G	Page 2 of 2
Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
LATENT FINGERPRINTS PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 29-January-2004

## 8.4 MINIMUM STANDARDS & CONTROLS

Dye stains, such as Rhodamine 6G, work by discoloring latent impressions developed with cyanoacrylate ester. Due to their inherent ability to stain and discolor the ridge detail, there is no need for test impressions to be done prior to evidence application.

#### 8.5 PROCEDURE OR ANALYSIS

# All applications should be done in a fume hood.

- 1. Apply the solution to the item to be processed by immersion or squirt bottle.
- 2. Rinse the item with methanol and allow to dry.
- 3. Examine the item with the alternate light source at the appropriate wavelength, 488 nm, 510 nm or 514.5 nm, using the appropriate filters.
- 4. Have any impressions photographed.

## 8.6 INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

If the impressions are faint, repeated applications of the Rhodamine 6G solution may be attempted. If repeated applications of the dye solution fail to improve the fluorescence, the Rhodamine 6G concentration may be increased. Photographic preservation incorporating orange filters as used in the evidence examination or a Wratten #21 filter, and panchromatic films prove quite successful with even faint fluorescence.

#### 8.7 REFERENCES

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